

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA**

IN RE:	}
	}
THE MATTER OF THE REAPPOINTMENT	}
OF JOHN E. OTT	}
AS UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE	}

NOTICE

The current term of the office of United States Magistrate Judge John E. Ott at Birmingham, Alabama, is due to expire on April 5, 2006. The United States District Court is required by law to establish a panel of citizens to consider the reappointment of the magistrate judge to a new eight year term.

 The duties of a magistrate judge position include the following: (1) conducting most preliminary proceedings in criminal cases, such as initial appearances, bond and detention hearings, and arraignments; (2) the trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases; (3) conducting various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on reference from the judges of the district court, including civil discovery and other non-dispositive motions; (4) conducting preliminary reviews and making recommendations regarding the disposition of prisoner civil rights complaints and habeas corpus petitions; and (5) trial and disposition of civil cases upon consent of the litigants.

Comments from members of the bar and the public are invited as to whether the incumbent magistrate judge should be recommended by the panel for reappointment by the court and should be directed to:

**Perry D. Mathis, Clerk
U. S. District Court
Northern District of Alabama
Room 140, 1729 5th Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203**

Comments must be received by December 31, 2005.